



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS
The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of
Homeland Security and Emergency Management
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Damage to a home on Lake Shore Drive in Franklin, caused by a microburst in the wake of Hurricane Sandy on Oct. 30. A falling tree smashed in the roof and knocked it off the foundation.

N.H. DOT photo

SANDY SPARES NEW HAMPSHIRE THE WORST – Hurricane Sandy, one of the most devastating tropical storms in history, struck the East Coast on Monday, Oct. 29. While the storm left sections of New York City and New Jersey looking like war zones, New Hampshire escaped with little permanent damage, although response and cleanup costs exceed an estimated \$3.7 million. The state received an Emergency Declaration for all 10 counties for Emergency Protective Measures performed during the incident period, which is Oct. 26-31, 2012. The declaration will allow FEMA to provide financial assistance to communities that took measures to eliminate or reduce immediate threats to life, public health or safety.

Requests for Public Assistance forms went out to all Emergency Management Directors on Nov. 5. These should be completed and sent back to HSEM prior to Dec. 3, 2012.

The greatest effect of the storm here was power outages, which left 210,000 homes and business in the dark, some for up to five days. In terms of power outages, Sandy was the fourth worst storm, following the Dec. 2008 ice storm, the Feb. 2010 wind storm and the Oct. 2011 snowstorm.

The winds gusted up to around 60 mph and brought down trees, wires and poles, which also blocked portions of 35 state and more than 100 municipal roads. One thing that the storm did not bring to New Hampshire, unlike areas farther south, was flooding. Rainfall turned out to be less than predicted. And while small rivers and streams rose there was no significant flooding reported in the state. Shelters were opened in Auburn, Gorham, Keene, Nashua, Piermont, Plymouth and Rochester, but only about 45 people stayed overnight.

The State Emergency Operations Center was activated to a Level 3 and Gov. John H. Lynch spent considerable time there during the first three days of the storm, meeting with department heads and conducting conference calls with local emergency management directors and school superintendents to coordinate the state response.

N.H. AIDS HARD-HIT NEW YORK METRO AREA – Having escaped the worst of Hurricane Sandy, New Hampshire helped recovery efforts in New York and New Jersey. American Red Cross New Hampshire deployed two teams of volunteers who specialize in sheltering and disaster relief to New Jersey. Gov. Lynch sent a 12-member team from the New Hampshire State Police to assist New Jersey State Police with law enforcement duties. Firefighters from around the state sent supplies to firefighters to the New York City Borough of Staten Island. A number of private groups in the state also collected food, clothing and other supplies for storm victims.

NOVEMBER IS CARBON MONOXIDE AWARENESS MONTH – Gov. John H. Lynch issued a proclamation declaring November Carbon Monoxide Awareness Month, aimed at focusing attention on the danger posed by the colorless, odorless gas. State Fire Marshal Bill Degnan said carbon monoxide is produced when any fuel is burned, so the risk of CO poisoning increases during the winter heating season. He urged people get CO detectors for their homes.

Degnan said fire departments have responded to over 700 New Hampshire households for CO concerns already this year. Infants, elderly people, unborn babies, and people with anemia or with a history of heart or respiratory disease can be especially susceptible. Symptoms of CO poisoning may include headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, sleepiness, and confusion. People should never ignore symptoms, particularly if more than one person is feeling them. **If you suspect CO poisoning, get outside to fresh air immediately, and then call 911.**

SEABROOK SIREN DEMONSTRATION SET – For the fifth consecutive year, Seabrook Station and public safety officials in the Seabrook Emergency Planning Zone will conduct an audible demonstration of the nuclear plant's warning sirens. The demonstration will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 12:30 p.m. It is intended to acquaint the public with the sound of the sirens in the event of an emergency at Seabrook. As in previous years, a public information campaign is being conducted in advance of the test to advise the public of the demonstration.

The Seabrook system consists of 121 sirens, 94 of which are in New Hampshire and 27 in Massachusetts.

SAVE THE DATE – Mark your 2013 calendar for the annual N.H. Emergency Preparedness Conference, which will be held on Thursday, June 27. The location will be announced in the spring, following Executive Council approval of the contract. Participants can keep up with details at www.NHEmergencyPrepConference.com.

The N.H. Emergency Preparedness Conference is a free annual event that brings together more than 500 emergency response and preparedness professionals from across the state to explore a wide spectrum of emergency management topics using an all-hazards approach. The conference provides excellent opportunities for training and networking with local experts and practitioners from fields such as emergency management, public health, fire, EMS, law enforcement, business, healthcare, local government, public works, code enforcement, schools, social services and volunteer groups.

FIRE ACADEMY HOSTS AWARDS CEREMONY - The N.H. Fire Academy hosted its 17th Annual Awards Convocation on Thursday, Nov. 1, in Concord. Governor John H. Lynch was awarded the Fire Service Award of Excellence by the N.H. Fire Standards and Training and EMS Commission. The Commission noted that “his support of public safety has never waivered and his support of the men and women who serve on fire departments throughout the state has been unmatched.”

Others receiving awards included: Former EMS Bureau Chief Suzanne Prentiss of Lebanon, Bureau Chief Jeff Phillips of Epsom; Manchester Firefighters Andy Biron and Greg Bolduc and Hooksett Firefighter Earl Lincoln.

CAMPAIGN BEGINS TO FIGHT CANCER IN FIREFIGHTERS – Firefighters, both male and female, have higher rates of 12 types of cancer than the general public. A campaign kicked off on Nov. 8 to try to reduce those rates. The statewide campaign is sponsored by the New Hampshire Professional Firefighters, the N.H. Association of Fire Chiefs, the Portsmouth Firefighters Charitable Association, the N.H. Division of Fire Standards & Training and EMS, and the New Hampshire State Firefighters Association. It is augmented by materials from the Concord Hospital Payson Cancer Center. A 75-minute multi-media program is being made available to all shifts at every firehouse in the state. It encourages all firefighters and fire officers to get annual physical, change personal protective equipment after every fire and avoid engine exhaust, among other things.

*Happy Thanksgiving from N.H. Homeland Security
and Emergency Management*

Keep up with emergency preparedness information in New Hampshire on www.readynh.nh.gov and [Twitter.com/ReadyNH](https://twitter.com/ReadyNH). For information on upcoming training and classes go to: <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/training/schedtrdates.html>